

Message Text

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FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO AMMAN BEIRUT DHAHRAN
KHARTOUM KUWAIT TEHRAN TRIPOLI FROM JIDDA 07 AUG 73
REPEATED TO YOU

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3348

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SUBJ: US VISITORS ELICIT VIEWS ON VETO, OIL AND
OTHER MATTERS

SUMMARY: DURING THREE DAYS CONTACTS HERE ROOSEVELT AND
SOUKI FOUND KING SHARPLY CRITICAL OF US VETO IN SC AND ASKING
HOW SAUDI ARABIA COULD MAINTAIN FRIENDSHIP WITH USG IN FACE
OF SUCH ACTION. PHARAON TOOK SAME LINE, DISCUSSING ALSO
ISSUES BEING RAISED FOR SAG BY ENORMOUS AMOUNTS
STEADILY-INCREASING OIL INCOME. BOTH PHARAON AND CENTRAL
PLANNING HEAD NAZIR MENTIONED IDEA OF LIMITING ANNUAL INCREASE
OIL OUTPUT TO TEN PERCENT PER ANNUM AS PERHAPS ONLY MEANS OF
CONTROLLING OTHERWISE UNMANAGEABLE QUANTITIES OF OIL INCOME.
SAUDIS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THEIR PR EFFORT IN US. END
SUMMARY.

1. KERMIT ROOSEVELT AND HIS LEBANESE PUBLICIST FRIEND, SAMYR
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SOUKI, HAVE JUST SPENT THREE DAYS IN SAUDI ARABIA WHERE THEY

HAVE SEEN NUMBER OF THEIR FRIENDS AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF SAUDI GOVT, INCLUDING KING FAISAL, DR. RASHAD PHARAON, CHIEF OF ROYAL PROTOCOL WAHAB, VICE MINISTER OF FINANCE ABU KHAYL, AND (VERY BRIEFLY) PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION HISHAM NAZIR.

2. ROOSEVELT BEGAN DISCUSSIONS WITH KING BY TELLING HIM SOMETHING OF SHAH'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON AT VARIOUS EVENTS OF WHICH ROOSEVELT HAD BEEN PRESENT. ROOSEVELT NOTED THAT DURING MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE SHAH HAD EXHORTED US TAKE VIGOROUS MEASURES FOR PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION RESOLUTION 242. THIS SET KING OFF AT ONCE WITH SHARP, CRITICAL COMMENT CONCERNING RECENT US EXERCISE OF VETO IN SECURITY COUNCIL. WHY DOES US DO SUCH THINGS, KING ASKED. HOW COULD SAUDI ARABIA MAINTAIN FRIENDSHIP WITH USG AGAINST CRITICISM OF OTHERS WHEN US SO CLEARLY IGNORED ARAB RIGHTS? FOLLOWING THESE FEW POINTED REMARKS, KING PROCEEDED TO DESCRIBE HOW ZIONIST-COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY WAS AT ROOT OF MANY OF PRESENT US PROBLEMS. DURING 20-MINUTE CALL WHICH TOOK PLACE AT 11:00 A.M., VISITORS FOUND KING ALERT AND MAKING HIS COMMENTS FIRMLY AND PRECISELY. KING RESPONDED WITH INTEREST TO ROOSEVELT'S SUGGESTION SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD INVEST MONEY IN IMPROVING FACILITIES (PARTICULARLY ROADS) FOR FOOD PRODUCTION IN SUDAN (WHOSE POTENTIAL ROOSEVELT APPARENTLY REGARDS AS LIMITLESS).

3. PAIR FOUND KING'S COUNSELOR PHARAON TAKING SAME CRITICAL LINE WITH REGARD TO UNSC VETO, WONDERING WHY US DID NOT RECOGNIZE ITS OWN CLEAR INTERESTS IN REGION. PHARAON THOUGHT SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE STRIVE MAKE ITS FEELINGS KNOWN AND TO MAINTAIN US-SAUDI FRIENDSHIP.

4. PHARAON ALLUDED ALSO TO DIFFICULT ISSUES NOW BEING RAISED FOR SAG BY ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF STEADILY-INCREASING OIL INCOME. ACCUMULATED SUMS MIGHT SOON BECOME UNMANAGEABLE. WAYS IN WHICH THIS COULD BE GOTTEN UNDER CONTROL WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. PHARAON WANTED HIS VISITORS UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD IT PROVE NECESSARY IN SOME MANNER LIMIT OIL PRODUCTION, IT WOULD NOT AT ALL BE UNDERTAKEN WITH ANY "PUNITIVE OBJECTIVES" IN MIND. HE ALLUDED TO POSSIBILITY OF PLACING TEN-PERCENT CEILING ON RATE OF ANNUAL INCREASE IN ARAMCO OUTPUT.
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5. ROOSEVELT AND SOUKI CAME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION THAT PROBLEM OF CONTROLLING PRODUCTION IN SOME MANNER IS IN RATHER GENERAL WAY ON MINDS OF SEVERAL TOP-LEVEL SAUDIS, THOUGH THERE IS CLEARLY NO AGREEMENT AS TO WHEN OR HOW THIS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. NAZIR ALSO MENTIONED LIMITING ANNUAL INCREASE IN OUTPUT TO TEN PERCENT PER ANNUM, REITERATING RATHER TENTATIVE COMMENT HE HAD MADE TO NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS COOLEY AND HOAGLAND DURING

THEIR VISIT HERE MONTH AGO.

6. SOUKI COMMENTED THAT TWO OR THREE SAUDIS HAD REMARKED ENTHUSIASTICALLY ON SOCIAL CHAIRMAN MILLER'S LETTER TO EMPLOYEES AND STOCKHOLDERS URGING GREATER DEGREE OF US SUPPORT FOR ARAB AIMS. THIS ENCOURAGED VISITORS TO DISCUSS WITH KING THEIR CONCERN OVER POOR SHOWING ARAB COUNTRIES ARE MAKING IN PUTTING THEIR CASE BEFORE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESS. OUTCOME WAS OFFER MADE BY SOUKI AND ROOSEVELT, AND ACCEPTED BY KING, THAT THEIR PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM SHOULD COME UP WITH PROGRAM FOR MORE INTENSIFIED PR ENDEAVOR BY SAG TO REACH US AUDIENCES. ROOSEVELT-SOUKI WELL AWARE THAT ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO SAQQAF KILLED HILL AND KNOWLTON CONTRACT BY WHICH THAT WELL-KNOWN NEW YORK FIRM HAD FOR SEVERAL YEARS ASSISTED SAUDIS WITH WELL-MANAGED INFORMATION PROGRAM IN US. ACCORDINGLY THEY HOPEFUL ANY NEW ENDEAVOR CAN BE KEPT DIRECTLY IN HANDS OF ROYAL DIWAN WITH PERHAPS PHARAON AND WAHAB SUPERVISING.
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